

June 15, 2024

West Valley End-Time Ministries Newsletter

“My Journey”

This year I will celebrate 50 years of pastoral ministry. It was in September of 1974 that I walked into my very first church as pastor of that congregation. I was not there because I had just graduated from seminary – I was to receive my seminary education later. I was not there because I had chosen ministry as a career, following in the footsteps of my father and many of my relatives. I was there because the direction of my life had been spun around by the discovery of a story of Christ that made **Him** the star of that story instead of **me**. And I couldn't wait to share that story in the capacity of a **“minister of the gospel.”**

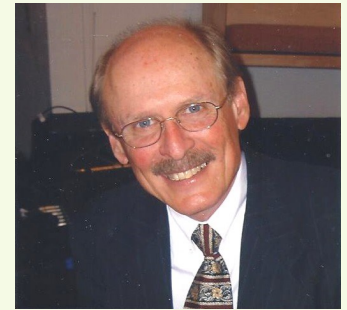
Over the ensuing years of ministry, the message of salvation in Christ alone, by grace alone, and through faith alone, was my theme – my reason! My life had been changed by my new understanding of the Gospel as taught in Scripture, and “the love of Christ compelled me” to share it! (2 Corinthians 5:14). **I was on fire!**

As my love for the Word of God grew, I developed a fascination with prophecy. The Book of Revelation beckoned my attention and prophecy became my second love. During my subsequent years of a study of the Book of Revelation, I discovered several principles that bring the understanding of Revelation within the reach of ordinary Christians. A book which is often confusing to many students of prophecy, leading to gross misunderstanding and misleading conclusions, doesn't need to be confusing!

You don't have to be a scholar or have advanced degrees in theology to see the story told in Revelation. God inspired the prophecies of the last book of the Bible “to **show** his servants things which must shortly take place.” Revelation 1:1. **He wants us to know**, and one of the things that I find so rewarding in my walk with Christ is an ever growing understanding of 1) the Gospel, and of 2) the prophecies of Revelation, which are **today** coming to life right before our eyes! **It's so important for the followers of Christ to know!**

So it is in this issue that I propose to share with my readers a few principles that will pull back the curtain of mystery that surrounds the contents and the language of the Book of Revelation. You too can share the excitement of soul that such an unveiling of the future engenders in your study of prophetic **“revelations”!**

In Him,
Pastor Chilson

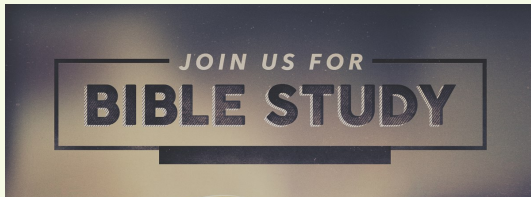


Pastor Darrell Chilson

***“We are living in
the season of
Christ's return.”***

***Jesus said, “Watch
and be ready, for
the Son of Man is
coming at an hour
you do not expect.”***

***The mission of
West Valley Minis-
tries is to help
Christ's followers
recognize the signs
of His approaching
return and be pre-
pared for that
Great Day.***



JOHN THE BAPTIST EXALTS CHRIST

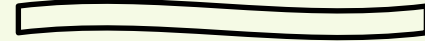
John 3 –

22 After these things Jesus and His disciples came into the land of Judea, and there He remained with them and baptized. **23** Now John also was baptizing in Aenon near Salim, because there was much water there. And they came and were baptized. **24** For John had not yet been thrown into prison.

25 Then there arose a dispute between [some] of John's disciples and the Jews about purification. **26** And they came to John and said to him, "Rabbi, He who was with you beyond the Jordan, to whom you have testified-- behold, He is baptizing, and all are coming to Him!"

27 John answered and said, "A man can receive nothing unless it has been given to him from heaven. **28** "You yourselves bear me witness, that I said, 'I am not the Christ,' but, 'I have been sent before Him.' **29** "He who has the bride is the bridegroom; but the friend of the bridegroom, who stands and hears him, rejoices greatly because of the bridegroom's voice. Therefore this joy of mine is fulfilled. **30** "He must increase, but I [must] decrease. **31** "He who comes from above is above all; he who is of the earth is earthly and speaks of the earth. He who comes from heaven is above all. **32** "And what He has seen and heard, that He testifies; and no one receives His testimony. **33** "He who has received His testimony has certified that God is true. **34** "For He whom God has sent speaks the words of God, for God does not give the Spirit by measure. **35** "The Father loves the Son, and has given all things into His hand.


36 "He who believes in the Son has everlasting life; and he who does not believe the Son shall not see life, but the wrath of God abides on him."




- 1) In the next phase of Jesus' ministry, Jesus and His disciples leave Jerusalem and go into the countryside of Judea, where Jesus spends time with His disciples and baptizes new followers. Try to relive this time and imagine what life was like for Jesus and His disciples (about 4-5 months).
- 2) John was baptizing in a different location, while Jesus was near the place where John and Jesus had had their first encounters. Describe how this could have helped jump-start Jesus' ministry.
- 3) How did Jesus' ministry affect John the Baptist's ministry?
- 4) How did John's disciples react? How did John respond?
- 5) Discuss verse 27 in light of the successes, or lack thereof, of the Church of today.
- 6) How did John's response to his disciples' concern at the end of verse 26 affirm his confidence that Jesus was the Son of God, as he had testified in John 1:34?
- 7) What is the significance of John likening Jesus to a "bridegroom" and himself as "the friend of the bridegroom?"
- 8) What price did John the Baptist pay for being willing to call Israel to repentance, in anticipation of the saving mission of Christ?
- 9) Will the messengers of God have to pay that same price at the end, as they call a lost world to repentance in anticipation of the last saving mission of Christ?
- 10) How is verse 36 similar to Jesus' conversation with Nicodemus in the first part of this chapter of John — John 3:14-18?



“PRINCIPLES OF UNDERSTANDING REVELATION”

- 1) The war between Christ and Satan which began in heaven, when Lucifer sought to usurp the authority of God, resulted in Satan and his angels being cast out of heaven to our earth (Revelation 12:7-9). Since that time, Satan has been at war with Christ and His Church, and will wage war until Jesus returns. This battle is the essential and ever-present backdrop of ALL the details of the prophecies of Revelation. We must see every “act” of this drama, as recorded in Revelation, in light of the conflict between Christ and His Church, and Satan and his hosts! EVERY SNAPSHOT OF PROPHECY MUST BE SEEN IN THIS CONTEXT!
 - 2) The characters of prophecy are almost always “masked”/symbolic, but their actions are literal, i.e. – the four horsemen of the apocalypse (Revelation 6:2-8). Each of the riders of these four horses are “masked” –
 - ◆ The rider on the **white** horse symbolizes Jesus Christ in the person of His people, carrying the Gospel to a world under judgment. “The rider” has a bow, a symbol of warfare, and goes forth conquering for the Kingdom of Christ! The rider and the horse are symbolic, but their actions are literal!
 - ◆ The rider on the **red** horse carries a sword, symbolizing bloodshed and death. He is given authority to take peace from the earth, and many die as a result. The rider and the horse are symbolic, but their actions are literal!
 - ◆ Likewise, the rider on the **black** horse represents famine, and the rider on the **pale** horse, pestilence and death.
 - 3) These characters of prophecy often wear DIFFERENT “masks” and have DIFFERENT names, i.e. –
 - ◆ Antichrist – Beast (w/7 heads); Abomination of Desolation; Babylon; Harlot; Little Horn
 - ◆ False Prophet – Two-horned beast of Rev 13
 - 3) Matthew 24 is Jesus’ template for the sequence of prophetic events from the first century through the last century, until His return, i.e. –
 - ◆ Verses 5 and 6 – Life on this earth from 31 AD to the present
 - ◆ Verses 7 and 8 – The events **in progress** resulting from the activity of the four horsemen of the apocalypse – “sword, famine, and pestilence” – “the beginning of sorrows” (Matthew 24:8)
 - ◆ Verses 9-14 – Lawlessness, false teachers, deception, betrayal, persecution of the followers of Christ, AND the Gospel being taken with power to the inhabitants of earth
 - ◆ Verses 15-24 – The rise of Antichrist, “the abomination of desolation,” and the Great Tribulation
 - ◆ Verses 27-31 – The return of Jesus, and the events immediately surrounding His coming
 - 4) There is only one story of eschatology in the Bible. Matthew 24 is Jesus’ version, Daniel 2, 7 and 8 (primarily) is Daniel’s version of the story, and Revelation 6 through 20 is John’s version of the story – **each subsequent version a LAYER adding detail to the previous one – THIS IS CRITICAL!**
 - 5) Most prophetic events have “shadows” (type and antitype). Watch for them, as they help bring understanding to the prophecy. Final “events” usually have a previous historical parallel “event” that foreshadows the greater eschatological fulfillment, i.e. –
 - ◆ Compare Matthew 24:15-18 with Luke 21:20, 21:
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- ◇ Matthew 24:15-18 – "Therefore when you see the 'abomination of desolation,' spoken of by Daniel the prophet, **standing in the holy place**" (whoever reads, let him understand), "**then let those who are in Judea flee** to the mountains. Let him who is on the housetop not go down to take anything out of his house. And let him who is in the field not go back to get his clothes."
 - ◇ Luke 21:20-21 – "But when you see **Jerusalem surrounded by armies**, then know that its desolation is near. **Then let those who are in Judea flee** to the mountains, let those who are in the midst of her depart, and let not those who are in the country enter her."

6) Every kingdom mentioned in Bible prophecy is a kingdom that has or will "persecute" the people of God AND is a world kingdom, not just a nation or country.

7) There are only THREE evil powers/players at the end of time, mentioned in Bible prophecy – all are mentioned and destined in Revelation 19 and 20 for destruction in the lake of fire. They are, "the dragon," "the beast," and the "false prophet" (Revelation 16:13). However, as noted above, these three evil powers sometimes come with different names, i.e. –

- ◆ Revelation 12:3, 4 – "The **dragon** stood before the woman"
- ◆ Revelation 12:9 – "The great **dragon**,...that **serpent** of old, called the **Devil** and **Satan**, who deceives the whole world."
- ◆ Incidentally, another example of a "masked character" whose actions were literal at the birth of Christ!

8) Beasts represent world empires (Daniel 7:17).

9) Heads of beasts represent kingdoms within empires (Daniel 7:17).

10) Horns represent divisions of power within a kingdom (Daniel 7:24; 8:22).

11) Women represent churches (Rev 12 and 17).

12) Prophetic snapshots often come in "waves," i.e. –

- ◆ Three times in Matthew 24, Jesus shares a "wave," a snapshot of a period of time, and takes it all the way to "the end," then he goes back and picks up the timeline at a midpoint of that prophecy and carries it again to "the end":
 - ◇ "...and then the end will come." Matthew 24:14
 - ◇ "...so also will the coming of the Son of Man be." Matthew 24:27
 - ◇ "...they will see the Son of Man coming in the clouds of heaven." Matthew 24:30.
- ◆ The "sevens" of Revelation also come in "waves" – the "churches" of Rev 3, the "seals" of Rev 6, the "trumpets" of Rev 7 and 8, the "plagues" of Rev 15 and 16, and the "thunders" of Rev 10 – each "wave" beginning before the previous "wave" ends – just as with the waves of the ocean!

Join us each week (2 p.m. Pacific and Arizona Time; 5 p.m. Eastern Time; 4 p.m. Central Time; 3 p.m. Mountain Time) for our class discussions. Click: <https://westvalleyend-timeministries-511.my.webex.com/meet/pastor> to join. To receive our weekly newsletter, please send an email with "Subscribe to Newsletter" in the subject line to: Pastor@wvetm.com. ***HELP US BUILD OUR ONLINE COMMUNITY OF FAITH!***